



# Platteville Optimist Club Monthly Highlights September 2022

Vision Statement: *"To Impact the lives of youth in a positive and encouraging manner"*

**2021-2022 Officers:** Howard Crofoot, President – Melissa Palfrey, Vice President – Tom Nall, Past President, – Duane Borgen, Treasurer – Becky Schambow, Secretary (*filling remainder of Fern Nall's term*)

**2021-2022 Board of Directors:** Terri Ellis, Mark Essex, Jordan Holthaus, Steve Lane, Leon Neuheisel, and Alaina Reeves

Published for Members October 1, 2022 by Becky Schambow, Secretary

## HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2022

### **BUSINESS MEETING: September 2, 2022** (Also see *Business Conducted at September 9, 2022 Meeting*)

**ATTENDEES:** There were 27 members in attendance including: Tim Boldt; Carley Borcharding; Chris and Paul Budden; Amy Coffee; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Debra and Steve Elvidge; Dan Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Doreen Hlafaty; Ken Kamps; Maggie Kleisath; Maxine and Steve Lane; Tom Nall; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalmann; Ron Weier; and Wayne Wodarz. There were no guests.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Howard Crofoot at 7:03 a.m. Attendees then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

#### **MEETING ACTIVITIES:**

- **Mystery Greeter:** Beth Frieders was the Mystery Greeter, greeting Carley Borcharding.
- **Joker Draw:** Dan Engelke's ticket was drawn, however he cut the two of Hearts.
- **Free Breakfast Drawing:** Tim Boldt and Mark Essex were the two members' names present whose names were drawn, and Mike Olds and Mike Hahn were the two members not present whose names were drawn to receive a free breakfast in September.

**SPECIAL DATES ANNOUNCED:** by President Crofoot.

- **Birthdays this Upcoming Week:**
  - Hap Daus and Jordan Holthaus – Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Deb McWilliams – Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Arnie Roper – Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Chris Budden – Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>
- **Wedding Anniversaries the Upcoming Week:**
  - Jim and Tami Boebel – Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Deb and Harvey McWilliams – Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Charlie and Joyce Clark – Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Membership Anniversaries this Month:**
  - Kim Skemp – Sept. 1, 1982
  - Wayne Wodarz – Sept. 1, 1987
  - Jerry Schewe – Sept. 1, 1992
  - Charlie Clark – Sept. 30, 2002
  - Chad Holstein – Sept. 28, 2016
  - Mark Haas and Priscilla Hahn - Sept. 29, 2018
- **Friends of Optimist Anniversaries of Joining this Month:**
  - Bill's Plumbing and Heating – Sept. 29, 2015

- Queen B – Sept. 20, 2015
- Heiser Hardware– Sept. 28, 2016
- Honkamp & Krueger – Sept. 29, 2018

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT:** President Crofoot reviewed the following summary of the Governing Board Meeting held on August 30, 2022.

**TREASURER’S REPORT for Period Ending 08-31-2022:** (Submitted by Duane Borgen, Treasurer); President Crofoot noted the Internal and Youth Account balances contained in report, highlighting the Joker Fund Balance (included in the Internal Fund). Crofoot advised that a motion was made by the Board to approve the report as printed. Paul Budden seconded this motion, which carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Finance Committee –**
  - **Budget Process:** It was noted that Duane Borgen has sent out the “Donation Requests” forms to agencies and requests are due back by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Optimist Dues Increase:** President Crofoot noted that the Board has made a motion to the Membership “to increase regular members’ dues by \$6 effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, with the remainder of the \$15 OI dues increase to be absorbed by funds from the Club’s Internal Account”. *This would make member’s dues \$90 and spouse dues \$84.* President Crofoot also noted that the FOO membership dues will be increased to \$140. Board’s motion was seconded by Ken Kamps. A lengthy discussion then took place, ending with a subsequent motion made by Jerry Schewe, seconded by Tim Boldt, to table voting on the Board’s motion until the next weekly meeting on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried. Prior to next week’s meeting, a breakdown of dues (i.e., what goes to OI, SWIS, what is retained by Club, etc.) with the Board’s proposed increase recommendation, as well as what it would be if the members are charged the additional \$15 in full will be sent via email to members.
- **Community Service –**
  - **PCA Trail Clean Up Day – Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 a.m.:** The joint project with Kiwanis and Rotary members scheduled for Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet was circulated.
- **Membership –** Terri Ellis is sending some brochures with an invitation to join us for a meeting to some people who expressed interest in knowing more about our club.
- **Publicity – Newsletter – Website:**
  - **New Brochures:** If anyone would like one or more of the new brochures to give to a prospective member, etc., they should contact Becky Schambow.
  - **Website – Need volunteer to assist:** Club is still in need of someone willing to help post items on our website. Members were advised to contact Melissa Palfrey or Becky Schambow if interested in helping with this.
- **Cheese Curd –**
  - **Fair Report:** Becky Schambow reported that our fair income was slightly less compared to last year’s, She noted that some donations were received including 10 cases of water from Mast Water, 6 cases from Jordan Holthaus, and several rubber mats for the trailer from Bob Hundhausen. She and Alaina Reeves thanked all Committee members and volunteers for their efforts.
  - **Dairy Days – Sept. 9-11<sup>th</sup>:** As of this meeting, all shifts have been filled.
- **Fellowship –**
  - **September Speakers -** recruited by Charlie Clark & Maggie Kleisath are as follows:
    - September 9 - Kevin Hall - Development and Operation of Platteville Flower & Produce Auction Facility
    - September 16 - Ken Kamps – Optimists in 1975 and Other Historical Facts
    - September 23 -Erica Davidson from “Impact Life” - Blood Donation
    - September 30 - Maggie Kleisath – Updates on The Platteville Chorale and Children’s Choirs.
  - **Installation Banquet –** will be held Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at Platteville Country Club.
  - **Pizza Party –** President Crofoot noted the Board made a motion “to combine the Pizza Party and Installation Banquet awarding volunteers who worked at Cheese Curd sales 50% off of their meal charge at the Installation Banquet”. A second to the motion was made by Tom Nall. Motion carried.
- **Youth Activities -**
  - **Books for Babies:** President Crofoot reported that the Club has received a substantial amount designated for support of this program in memory of Fern Nall. He noted that Tom Nall extends his appreciation.

- **Story Book Walk:** It was reported that Terri Ellis has agreed to co-coordinate this program with Carley Borcharding. Carley will continue to store the materials at her home, but Terri will help recruit volunteers to set up books in strategic locations periodically. President Crofoot reported that the Board made a motion “to reassign this project from the Youth Committee to the Community Service Committee”. Hearing no objection, it was felt that this motion did not need a vote as Committee Guidelines and assignments are not policy, but guides. Amy Coffey and Linda Foht volunteered to help with this project.

**Old Business:** Nothing applicable to discuss.

**New Business:**

- **Project List:** President Crofoot noted that he and Becky have been working on updating our project list that will be submitted to upcoming President, Melissa Palfrey for approval. This is needed for OI Insurance purposes.
- **Meetings Cancelled due to holidays:** President Crofoot noted that the Board made a motion to “not hold our weekly meetings the day after Thanksgiving (*Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>*) and the Friday before Christmas weekend (*Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>*). Again, it was not felt that there needed to be a second or a vote on this motion. There were no objections. It was noted that we will plan to meet Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, however.

**Other Business:**

- **Presentation of Award:** President Crofoot asked Tom Nall to come forward at which time he presented Tom with an award letter and pin for recruiting ten new members (*cumulative*).
- **Stuff the Bus:** Maxine Lane questioned why we are not doing the “Stuff the Bus” program this year? Becky Schambow will check with Jim Boebel, School Superintendent to determine if this program is still in effect.

**Conclusion:**

- **Next Board Meeting:** Scheduled for Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- **Next Business Meeting:** Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>
- **Adjourn:** A motion was made by Maxine Lane, seconded by Paul Budden to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 a.m. Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted by:** *Becky Schambow, Secretary*

**WEEKLY MEETING – Friday, September 9, 2022**

**ATTENDEES:** *Names of members present recorded due to Business Portion of Meeting:* There were 29 members including: Jim Boebel; Tim Boldt; Carley Borcharding; Chris and Paul Budden; Charlie Clark; Howard Crofoot; Hap Daus; Terri Ellis; Eileen and Gary Engelke; Mark Essex; Linda Foht; Beth Frieders; Doreen Hlavaty; Bob Hundhausen; Ken Kamps; Maggie Kleisath; Maxine and Steve Lane; Tom Nall; Alaina Reeves; Becky Schambow; Jerry and Joy Schewe; Bob Stephens; Ernie Thalman; Ron Weier; Wayne Wodarz; and *Kevin Hall (Guest)*.

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:** President Howard Crofoot opened the meeting and led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

- **Guests Welcomed:** Kevin Hall, today’s speaker, was welcomed as our guest.

**SPECIAL DATES:** Refer to August 2022 Monthly Highlights for full list of special dates.

**MEETING ACTIVITIES:**

- **Mystery Greeter:** Steve Lane greeted Paul Budden.
- **Joker Draw:** Beth Frieder’s ticket was drawn, however she drew the 3 of Diamonds.

**INFORMATION PROVIDED / DISCUSSED:**

- **Rod Thomas on Hospice:** “Thinking of You” card circulated to be sent to Rod & Linda Thomas.
- **Dairy Days Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>:** Shift and assignment information has been sent to Cheese Curd sale volunteers.
- **PCA Trail Clean-up – Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Sign-up sheet for volunteers was circulated.
- **Installation and Awards Banquet – Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>:** Sign-up sheet to be circulated & will be posted on-line.

**BUSINESS MEETING BREAKOUT:** At this time, a motion was made by Jerry Schewe, seconded by Charlie Clark, to go into a “Business Meeting” for the sole purpose of discussing and voting ON DUES INCREASE TABLED FROM Business Meeting on 9-2-2022. Motion carried. (*Speaker followed the business portion or meeting.*)

- **OI Dues Increase – Board Motion:** President Crofoot noted that the Board had made a motion to members “to increase regular members’ dues by \$6 effective October 1, 2022 with the remainder of the OI’s dues increase to be absorbed by funds from the Club’s Internal Account”. This had received a second at the Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Business meeting by Ken Kamps, but then after discussion, it was tabled due to members wanting to see breakdown. Subsequently President Crofoot created a spreadsheet which was sent via email to membership, and copies circulated at this meeting. After a lengthy discussion, a call for vote on the Board’s motion was taken and motion failed. Jerry Schewe then made a motion, seconded by Ken Kamps “to increase Regular Members dues to \$100, increase Spouse dues to \$90, and decrease Lifetime memberships to \$66. Motion carried.

**TODAY’S GUEST SPEAKER: Kevin Hall – Platteville Produce Auction:** Today’s speaker was recruited and introduced by Maggie Kleisath.

Kevin Hall was born and raised locally in the Catholic religion. At age 18 he converted to being a Mennonite, married a Mennonite woman, moved to Pennsylvania and then moved back to Platteville. Kevin is now the Manager of the Platteville Produce Auction facility.

This cooperative business was originally initiated by Amish and Mennonite farmers who came together to develop a program that would allow them to better utilize their acreage on something other than “that of milking cows”. They currently have 75 shareholders with 85 different growers who bring their produce into the facility for auctions which are held every Tuesday and Friday. Produce is fresh picked and sold at reduced rates in bulk. He noted that sometimes stores buy bins of produce from them and that any item considered “spoilage” goes to people who have pigs for their feed.

The business has a website: <https://platteville-produce-auction.business.site/>  
You can also dial: 712-432-8506 to get updated Market Report.

**CONCLUSION:** Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

### **WEEKLY MEETING – September 16, 2022**

*There were 21 members and no guests present.*

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:** President Howard Crofoot opened the meeting at 7:05 a.m. and led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

**SPECIAL DATE NOTED:** It was noted that Mike and Tonia Olds’ anniversary is on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **MEETING ACTIVITIES:**

- **Mystery Greeter:** Mark Haas greeted Ron Weier.
- **Joker Draw:** Terri Ellis drew Doug Martin’s ticket, however he drew the 9 of Diamonds.

#### **INFORMATION PROVIDED / DISCUSSED:**

- **Thank You Received:** From Kruser family on our gift of a book for their newborn baby.
- **Awards Presentation to Terri Ellis and Charlie Clark:** Letter of recognition from OI and award pins were provided to Terri Ellis for recruitment of her first member, and Charlie Clark for recruitment of his 20<sup>th</sup> member.
- **Dairy Days Sales:** President Crofoot thanked volunteers and noted successful sales.
- **PCA Clean-up Reminder – Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Volunteers to meet behind Menards instead of at Chamber office.
- **Sympathies to Rod Thomas Family:** Card sent to family with our Club memorial contribution with notes of sympathy on passing of our member and friend, Rod Thomas, on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Installation and Awards Banquet – Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>:** Encouraged to sign-up.

#### **TODAY’S SPEAKER: Ken Kamps – History and Interesting Facts About Our Club**

Ken was introduced by Charlie Clark who noted Ken was a Professor at UW-Platteville in the Department of Education from 1963 to 1998 and was a Founding Member of our Club. What prompted Ken to do some

research for his talk today began in June when Melissa Palfrey (President Elect) asked him if he knew when our Club purchased the mine train for the local museum.

Ken's presentation provided a wealth of history information noting the Platteville Optimist Club was formed in 1968. The first meeting place was at Steve's Pizza. Through his research reading old "Rooster Call" weekly bulletins he noted that in 1974 Richard Brockman suggested we buy a mine train. By selling note cards with pictures they were able to purchase the train in 1977.

The first Optimist Club (*not in Platteville*) began in 1916, and the first Optimist convention was held in 1919. In 1924 Optimists were known as a "Friend of the Boy". This was later changed to "Friend of Youth".

In 1974 the Platteville Optimist Club began to have our oratorical contest. In 1973 the "Mystery Greeter" was added to Club's meetings. In the fall of 1974, it was proposed that the Club allow women to join.

Ken remarked on some of the activities sponsored by the Club including: teen dances at the Armory and collection of used magazines for nursing homes in the 70's; providing safety devices for cupboards, "Pass-Dribble & Shoot", and bike safety in the 80's.

Past fund raisers were noted as well including White Elephant Sales (*where the "Shell Lamp" came into existence*). Between the years of 1974 and 1990 the Club sold pizzas, had brat sales and pancake breakfasts. Cheese curd sales began in 1978.

Social events began in 1970 with outings to UW and high school plays and then "Pick and Net Ball" (*similar to Pickleball*).

**NOTE:** Bulletins formerly known as "Rooster Calls" can be found on our Club website. During initial months of Covid Pandemic (*beginning March 2020*) meetings were not held. In June of 2020, "Monthly Highlights" were instituted in lieu of the weekly Rooster Calls. These "Monthly Highlights" are posted on our website and contain a summary of weekly meeting information. Becky Schambow will send out a link to the "Monthly Highlight" site to members as the highlights are posted.

**CONCLUSION:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Notes Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary  
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### **WEEKLY MEETING - September 23, 2022**

*There were 27 members and 1 guest present.*

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:** opened the meeting and led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

- **Guests Welcomed:** Erica Davidson, today's speaker.

#### **SPECIAL DATES NOTED:**

- **Birthdays – the upcoming week:** Bob Stephens birthday was this day (Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- **Members' Wedding Anniversaries – the upcoming week:** Tim and Kathy Murphy on Sept. 26th

#### **MEETING ACTIVITIES:**

- **Mystery Greeter:** Deb Elvidge greeted Terri Ellis.
- **Joker Draw:** Leon Neuheisel drew Ken Kamps' ticket, however, Ken drew the 3 of Clubs.

#### **INFORMATION PROVIDED / DISCUSSED:**

- **PCA Clean Up – Sept 17<sup>th</sup>:** President Crofoot extended appreciation to those who participated in the PCA clean-up and planting day. Bob Hundhausen remarked that this was a National Service Day and between the City and Rotary, Kiwanis and Optimists Clubs, 80 shrubs were planted in a two hour period.
- **Awards and Installation Banquet – October 9<sup>th</sup>:** Members were reminded of the upcoming banquet.
- **Website:** Ken Kamps noted he recently reviewed our Club's website and reviewing "Monthly Highlights" which took the place of weekly "Rooster Calls". He noted appreciation to those who have worked on this bulletin and encouraged others to go on website to see what is posted.

- **Thank You from Platteville Public Library:** A thank you was received and circulated from the Platteville Library noting appreciation for our Club donation. They had 361 people sign up for the “Oceans of Possibilities” program. Participants logged 7585 books read this summer.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Erica Davidson – Impact Life**

Erica Davidson was introduced by Charlie Clark. Erica is the Recruitment Development Coordinator for Impact Life (*formerly known as Mississippi Valley Blood Center*). Every year Impact Life teams up with thousands of donors and hundreds of community partners to help save lives through blood drives and their collection centers. Their goal is to have a sustainable blood supply for those in need.

The organization supplies approximately 125 hospitals in WI, IA, IL and MO, including our local Southwest Health.

They partner with education leaders via a life-saving grant in which they can go into schools to talk to students about blood donation. She noted a school can receive a \$250 grant by hosting a blood drive.

She noted a blood transfusion occurs every two seconds in the US and that one pint (unit donated) saves up to three lives.

She encouraged members to donate blood and encourage others to do the same.

**CONCLUSION:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Notes Recorded by: Becky Schambow

**WEEKLY MEETING - September 30, 2022**

*There were 32 members and 1 guest present.*

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:** President Howard Crofoot opened the meeting and led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Optimist Creed.

- **Guests Welcomed:** Dwight Klaassen, guest speaker was welcomed.

**SPECIAL DATES NOTED:**

- **Birthdays – the upcoming week:** Doug Martin on October 2<sup>nd</sup>; Dan Engelke on October 3<sup>rd</sup>; and Maxine Lane on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**MEETING ACTIVITIES:**

- **Mystery Greeter:** Gene Weber greeted Doreen Hlavaty.
- **Joker Draw:** Dwight Klaassen drew Maggie Kleisath’s ticket. Maggie drew the Queen of Clubs.

**INFORMATION PROVIDED / DISCUSSED:**

- **Annual Banquet Reminder:** October 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.
- **History Document from Ken Kamps:** Document containing history information about our Club was provided and circulated by Ken. Becky Schambow will download this information onto a flash drive for archiving purposes.
- **Thank You from Linda Thomas:** Card was circulated with note from Linda expressing thanks for Club’s memorial to Rod. The note contained a check from Rod’s memorial fund to the Club, designated to be put towards our scholarship fund.
- **Chamber Dinner:** Wayne Wodarz invited members to attend a dinner being put on at Broske Center tonight (Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>) by the Chamber.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Members Terri Ellis and Maggie Kliesath, joined by Dwight Klaassen – Platteville Chorale and Children’s Choir Update**

Displaying an interesting power point, speakers Terri Ellis, Maggie Kleisath, and Dwight Klaassen provided information about the history and progression of the “Platteville Chorale” and the “Platteville Children’s

Choir". The power point not only provided key information about the organizations, but displayed pictures that were taken over the years.

The speakers noted they have all been involved with these programs for many years, with Dwight being a Charter Member of the Chorale.

The Platteville Chorale was organized in the fall of 1975 and began rehearsals under the direction of Gerald Darrow. Initially there were 36 singers, and their first performances were in November of that year.

In the spring of 1978, the Chorale Board planned and organized a Summer Music Festival which had a 16-year run.

The Chorale has often joined with University Singers and other musical organizations in the community to provide concerts throughout the years. The Chorale has traveled on tour with other organizations including the United Kingdom in 2014, and Montreal and Quebec City in 2018.

The "Platteville Children's Choir" was established in 1989 by the Platteville Chorale. This program has grown remarkably over the years, having three different choirs for grades 2-4; 4-6 and 6-8. Although the Covid pandemic greatly affected the PCC's ability to be able to sing together, they are now back in full swing and expect continued growth as they continue to "develop the whole child through the chorale singing process".

**CONCLUSION:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Notes Recorded by: Becky Schambow, Secretary

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS' SPECIAL DAYS in OCTOBER 2022**

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:**

- Doug Martin – October 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- Dan Engelke – October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Maxine Lane – October 5<sup>th</sup>
- Steve Kleisath – October 8<sup>th</sup>
- Terri Ellis – October 9<sup>th</sup>
- John Zuehlke – October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Diane VanNatta – October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Carley Borcharding – October 25<sup>th</sup>
- Ken Kamps – October 28<sup>th</sup>

### **OCTOBER – MEMBERS' WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Dean and Vicki Feldman – October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Jeff and Amy White – October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Ron and Jan Weier – October 26<sup>th</sup>

### **OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Ken Kamps – October 1, 1970
- Debra McWilliams – October 20, 1995
- Ernie Thalmann – October 17, 2008
- Brad Brogley – October 16, 2015

### **OCTOBER - FRIENDS OF OPTIMISTS MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Weber Business Consulting – October 20, 2016
- Garvey's Auto Service – October 27, 2016
- H & R Block – October 22, 2019